

**CONFIDENTIAL-ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT**

**Orangeburg Redistricting Public Hearing  
Summary of Testimony**

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, Roquemore Auditorium  
March 23, 2011 6:30-8:30 p.m. scheduled

The public hearing began at 6:35 pm. The Redistricting Subcommittee members present were: Senator McConnell, Senator L. Martin, Senator Ford, Senator Hutto, Senator Malloy, Senator Cleary, and Senator Shoopman. The Senate Redistricting staff persons present were: Charlie Terreni, Debbie Hammond, Katherine Wells, Dwight Jones, and Laurie Traywick.

Senator McConnell introduced members of the subcommittee and explained the redistricting process. He also explained that the ground rules for all of the 10 public hearings would be to ask each speaker to be clear, brief, and civil, so all persons would have the time to present their ideas and concerns clearly and concisely and that all positions would be given respect.

1. Senator John W. Matthews, Senator from District #39, spoke about both Senate and Congressional redistricting. He welcomed the members of the subcommittee to the Orangeburg area. He asked that, in drawing senatorial districts, the subcommittee protect rural areas even if their population has not grown. He asked the subcommittee to adopt a high variance, and draw rural districts on the lower end of the range. He asked that the subcommittee consider the need for Orangeburg County to retain two Senators. With regard to Congressional redistricting, Sen. Matthews asked that the subcommittee look at Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, and use the standards needed to protect against retrogression. He also asked the subcommittee to consider making a Midlands Congressional District more compact and more centered in the Midlands area of the state, and consider making the new Congressional district more of an “influence district.” Sen. Matthews observed that there are two options for locating the new Congressional District: in the “upper part of the state” or in the Pee Dee. He also said that he may provide written comments before April 9, 2011.

2. Roy Lindsey, executive committeeman for the Orangeburg Republican Party, spoke on Senate and Congressional redistricting. He stated there are around 11,000 republicans in Orangeburg County, and they do not feel that they have adequate representation in the state Senate. He asked the subcommittee to consider drawing Senate District lines so that a republican could be elected. With regard to Congressional redistricting, he concurred with Sen. Matthews’ remarks that District #2 should be more compact and not spread out from the Midlands to the coast.

3. Professor Harvey Elwood spoke next. He stated that he has not crunched the census numbers, but he hopes the subcommittee would consider drawing the lines for the new Congressional seat, so that the state would be able to elect two African-Americans out of seven Congressional seats, since the African-American population in the state is around 29%. He asked that the new seat be based on the principle of “proportional representation” based on culture, class, race, ethnicity, and those things that people have in common. Professor Elwood stated that he hoped that the new congressional districts would reflect the makeup of the Redistricting Subcommittee. He said, “Your numbers represent the population of the state.”

## CONFIDENTIAL-ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT

4. Mr. Hou-Yin Chang, an Orangeburg business man, spoke about Senate and Congressional districts. He stated that, in the area of Orangeburg County where he lives, ("Limestone 2" precinct) which is near the Lexington County-Orangeburg County line, he finds there is more in common with parts of Lexington County, such as Pelion and the town of Lexington, than there is with Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell counties. He stated that he thinks the parts of Orangeburg County on that side of I-26 are more aligned with the Lexington County areas, because the employees of businesses locating in Lexington County would locate in his part of Orangeburg County. With regard to Congressional redistricting, he said he thinks it does not make sense for part of Orangeburg to be associated with a Congressional District that also includes the Augusta area or the Pee Dee region. He thinks that it makes more sense for those areas of Orangeburg County that are closer to Lexington and that have more in common with Lexington County and Congressional District #2 to be together. He pointed out that the Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell counties are more aligned with the Augusta region and that up until 20 years ago, Augusta TV stations were the only ones broadcasting into his regions of Orangeburg County, but that is no longer the case, so that is another basis for his request that his areas of Orangeburg County be paired with Lexington County areas.

5. Jim Ulmer spoke next. He told the subcommittee that he wants representation that is fair to all of the citizens. He told the subcommittee he believes the fact that many counties do not have a resident senator does not serve justice. He feels that the population centers that gain the most population also get the most representation in the Senate and the House, and that schools and economic development are direct indications of the level of representation those communities have in Columbia. He thinks the "Corridor of Shame" would not exist if there were adequate fair representation in Columbia. Mr. Ulmer also pointed out that the sales taxes from the cash registers in the smaller counties go to Columbia and he believes, that because the citizens' concerns in these smaller areas are not as well known or understood by the legislature, they do not receive the benefits larger areas of the state do, because of their larger representation in the legislature. He recommended that the subcommittee follow the United States Congress' model and have one Senator from each county, similar to the way the US Senate has two senators from each state. He also recommended to the subcommittee that each county, no matter the population size, have one member in the state House of Representatives. The remaining 78 House members could be selected based on apportionment of population. He suggested that, for the counties that would be entitled by population to have more than one House district, each additional House district would be assigned by equal population single member districts within the county. He also asked that the districts, Senate, House and Congressional, be drawn along county lines and natural boundaries and major highways in order to bring some sanity to the process. He asked the subcommittee to find a way to do this and alleviate any legal challenges.

6. Benny Kinlaw, from Barnwell County, spoke about the need for representation for Barnwell and Allendale, calling them the forgotten parts of the state. He expressed his concerns to the subcommittee that, with the new census numbers showing the decrease in population in Allendale, Barnwell, and Bamberg counties, and the growth in Orangeburg County, there will be even less representation in the state legislature for the smaller counties, especially considering the larger population per Senate district that will be required under the new census numbers. He believes having his area in Congressional District #2 has been good and that he has received assistance from Congressman Wilson's office when requested.

**CONFIDENTIAL-ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT**

7. Representative Jerry Govan, House District #95, asked the subcommittee to remember and follow the principles of one person, one vote, the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments to the US Constitution, and the need to have districts that are compact. With regard to the new 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, he asked the subcommittee to give the state the opportunity to reflect the diversity of the state's population either from an influence standpoint or to create an opportunity for a representative to be elected who reflects the population of the state.

Two people who signed up to speak, Howard Glover and Malik Sherroy, decided not to speak.

Senator McConnell asked if there was anyone else in the audience who wished to speak.

No one responded and the hearing was adjourned at approximately 7:05 pm.

